(b) whether Government are aware of the Sati incidence that took place in August in Panna district in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sati incidents are on the rise in the country;

(d) the number of people who have been arrested or punished under the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, since 1996, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent Sati in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) As per the information available with the Government, only two cases of Sati were reported since 1996, one from Uttar Pradesh during the year 1997 and the other from Madhya Pradesh in 2002.

(d) Only one person was arrested under the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act since 1996 and the person was acquitted by the court.

(e) Government had enacted the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987. A proposal for amending the Act to make it more stringent is under consideration of the Government.

Representation of NE in National History

3208. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3422, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th April, 2002 and state:

(a) whether NCERT has taken any action to place the North East India in the national history, socio-culture, geography and other major NCERT Text Books; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information available, NCERT has been making

conscious efforts to give due coverage to the North-East India. The National Curriculum Framework for School Education, 2000 has already emphasized on this. The new textbooks are being prepared keeping this in mind.

Education for Non-recognised degrees in Central Universities

†3209. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Universities are not only imparting education for non-recognised degrees, but they are also ahead in cheating Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the University Grants Commission, which extends help to Universities, is also negligent on this count;

(c) whether 13 Central Universities have usurped an amount of more than Rs. 27 crore, received from the UGC, due to the favour shown by the UGC officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Budget estimate for book promotion

3210. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 56 per cent, 53 per cent, 66 per cent. and 50 per cent. of the Plan BE, sanctioned for book promotion in the four years between 1998 and 2002, remained unutilised;

(b) if so, what are the year-wise, programme-wise and agency-wise, physical targets, which could not be met; and

(c) whether the department has conducted any review meeting, to minimise the staggering non-utilisation of funds for book promotion and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi